

2019 Honorary Grand Marshal Putnam County Columbus Festivities Frank Giordano

My name is Francis Giordano but most people know me as Frank. I was born in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn on July 24, 1949. This is a special year for me because I am celebrating my 70th Birthday and have been chosen as Honorary Grand Marshal of the 2019 Putnam County Columbus Parade! I hit the jackpot!

My parents were first generation Italian Americans who did not speak a word of Italian. Like many immigrants, my parents were focused on assimilating, learning English and becoming American. The little Italian I learned was from my grandparents. We lived in a four family home with my mother's two sisters, one of whom is her twin. My mom is 90 and very vital and still living on the same block for 50 plus years. I went to Saint Athanasius Grammar School and Church one block away and my neighborhood was 90% Italian. After graduation I went to Cathedral Preparatory Seminary in Elmhurst, Queens to study for the priesthood. I still have people who call me Father Frank. I have two younger brothers and a baby sister who is nine years younger. One brother, Robert, is an auto mechanic and contractor the other is a professional musician named, Peter Stevens. Margaret, my baby sister, married a Kenny Rogers look alike who captains sea boats. She worked along side him serving the passengers.

In junior year my goal of becoming a teaching-coaching-priest changed and I transferred to Bishop Ford High School. I graduated from Saint John's University with a BA in Education and pursued a career as a teacher and coach. The year after I graduated, on April 2nd 1972, I married my wonderful, beautiful wife, Josephine. I began teaching full time and coaching after school. Simultaneously, I pursued graduate studies in the evening and graduated with my Masters Degree in three years. After working two years in a poor neighborhood of Brooklyn, Park Slope, at Saint Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School, I transferred to Felix Festa Middle School in the famous Clarkstown School System. I made friends with the principal, a sports nut, and taught and coached three sports for almost forty years. I moved from Brooklyn to Jefferson Valley New York to make my trip easier. I am still here forty years later. In between teaching, studying and coaching, I had my first child, a redheaded beauty named Jennifer. She was stunning. Two years later, I had my second child, Frankie, a blond haired bouncing baby boy.

Jennifer and her husband Fred have given me three beautiful grandchildren: Fred 12, Marina 9, and Hanna 7. My son, Frank, married a beautiful young woman named, Sable, on April 26, 2019. It was a wonderful affair. I was able to attend with my wife and best friend, Josephine, whom I always say is the most wonderful women on earth.

I am retired and renovate older properties and rent them out. I am currently finishing one in Goshen. It will be one of my last. There are two properties a 7000 square foot mansion on 6 acres, which is almost complete and another- a two family brick carriage house. Hopefully, when we complete the renovation I can take it much easier and spend more time traveling with my wife and family.

I also look forward to spending time with my grandchildren who are the love of my life. My grandson, Fred, is passionate about basketball and plays very hard. Though he is not as tall as his teammates, he never gives up. He is also a tough little football player. Having studied martial arts, achieving nearly a black belt, he does not know how to back down. He knows where and how to hit his opponent. Marina is a very talented gymnast, as well as, the most talented girl on her basketball team. Her body bends in ways you can't imagine. My baby, Hannah, suffers from a mild case of cerebral palsy. She is a very talented and cute pianist. I'm waiting for group 2.

God has blessed me with a great family, and some very dear friends here at the Italian American Club of Mahopac. I am honored to have been chosen to be the Honorary Grand Marshal of the 2019 Columbus Festivities. God Bless Everybody.